

Special Fishing Regulations

Sport fishing is permitted on all waters of the Refuge during the open season, except for those specifically posted as “closed to all entry”. Sport fishing will be conducted in accordance with all applicable state regulations and subject to the following special conditions.

The sport fishing season extends from March 1 through October 31, except for the Noxubee River and the borrow pits along Highway 25, which are open year-round. No commercial fishing activities are allowed on refuge lands.

Limb lines, snag lines, and hand grappling are prohibited in Ross Branch, Bluff Lake and Loakfoma Lake.

Pole and set hooks when used in rivers, creeks, and other water bodies must be tagged with name and address and removed when not in use.

When trot lining, lines must have floats and cotton string attached to each end with owner’s name and address on both of them; one line is allowed per person with no more than two lines allowed per boat; and lines must be tended every 24 hours and removed when not in use.

When jug fishing, jugs must have name and address attached to each jug and must be tended every 24 hours.

Fishing tournaments are prohibited on all refuge waters.

Bow fishing is allowed on the Refuge with no special use permit required during daylight use hours. Bow fishermen must, however, be issued a special use permit by the refuge to bow fish at night. Contact the refuge office for this permit.

Cleaning of fish is prohibited within the refuge’s picnic, boat ramp, parking lots, and other public use areas.

Please keep the Refuge clean. No littering.

| Hunts | Dates |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>Youth</i> | |
| Squirrel | Oct 6 - 12 |
| Deer | Nov 9 - 12 |
| Turkey | Mar 8 - 14 |
| <i>Small Game</i> | |
| Squirrel | Oct 13 - Feb 28 (dogs Dec. 1 - 24 & Jan 2 - Feb 28) |
| Rabbit | Oct 13 - Feb 28 (dogs allowed beginning Jan 2) |
| Quail | Nov 22 - Mar 2 (dogs allowed) |
| Woodcock | State Seasons |
| Raccoon & Opossum | Oct 1 - Feb 28 (dogs required at night) |
| <i>Deer</i> | |
| Archery | Oct 1 - Nov 16 |
| Gun | Nov 17 - 30 and Dec 26 - Jan 1 |
| Primitive Weapon | Nov 5 - 16 (antlerless only and Dec 1 - 14 (either sex) |
| Waterfowl | Draw hunt only (Wednesday and Saturday mornings of State Season) |
| Turkey | Mar 15 - May 1 |
| Fishing | Lakes opened Mar 1 - Oct 31 |

Signs Protect Visitors and Resources



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. Entry is permitted only for authorized uses (hunting, fishing, sightseeing, etc.) in accordance with refuge regulations.



This area is closed to **all** entry. No hunting, fishing or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public (See map.)



This area is closed to all entry due to proximity of eagle nest. No hunting, fishing or sightseeing is permitted.

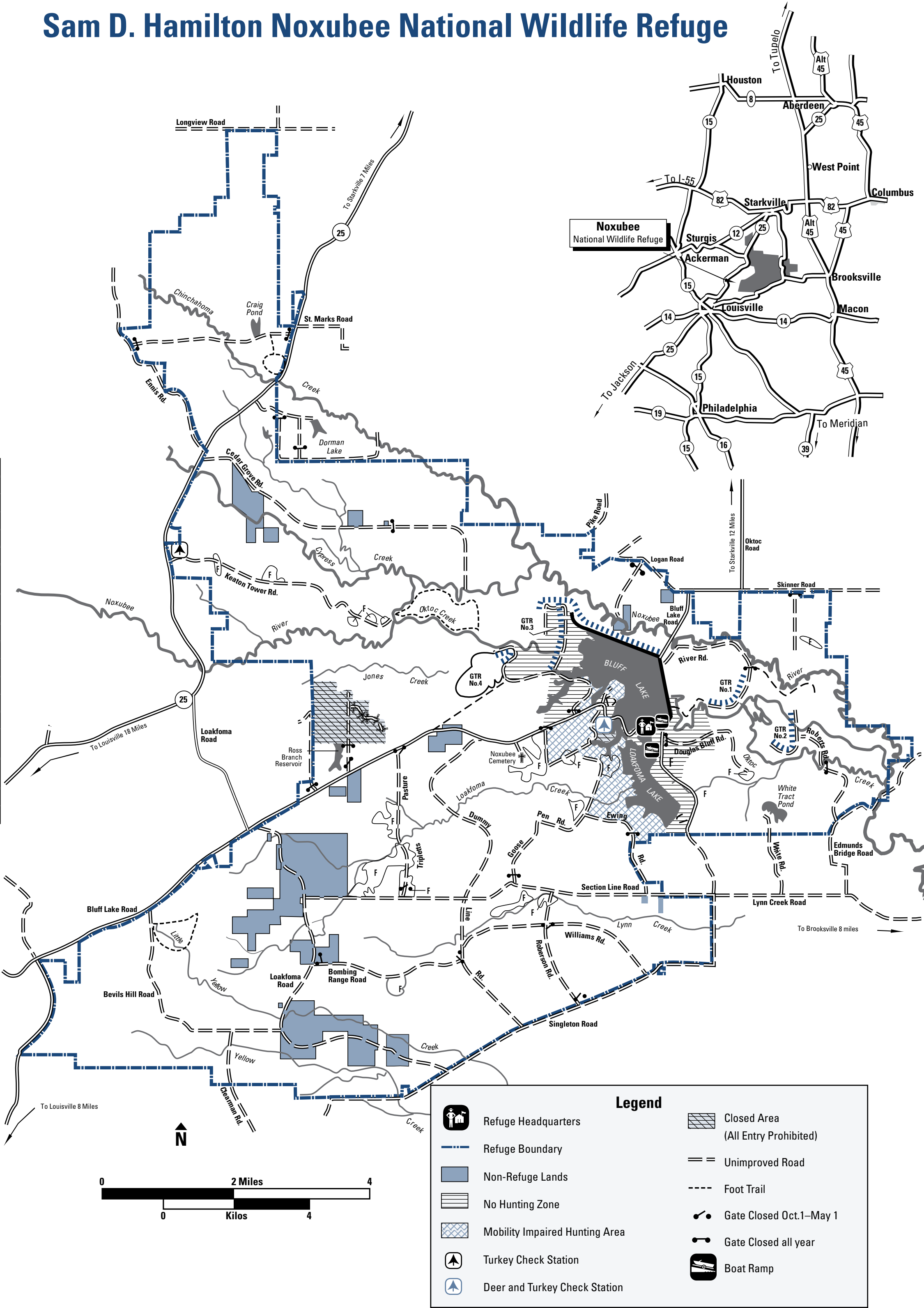


This area is closed to **all** hunting. Firearms and archery equipment are strictly prohibited. (See map.)



GTR’s #1, 2 and #4 have been designated as Steel Shot Zones to protect waterfowl feeding in these areas. All small game hunters using shotguns in these zones may use and possess **only** approved non-toxic shot shells. (See map.)

Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge



“The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is

to administer a national network of lands and waters for

the conservation, management, and where appropriate,

restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and

their habitats within the United States for the benefit of

present and future generations of Americans” (National

Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997).

Currently, over 550 National Wildlife Refuges exist encompassing more than 100 million acres of lands. Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR is an extremely important component for the conservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and plant resources within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Noxubee NWR was established on June 14, 1940, by Executive Order 8444 under the authority of 16 U.S.C. Sec. 715 (Migratory Bird Conservation Act) and approved for renaming as Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee NWR by Act of Congress on February 14, 2012. The Refuges’ stated purpose is “...for use as a Refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife...” 16 U.S.C. Sec. 715 (Migratory Bird Conservation Act). In conjunction with the primary establishing purposes, the Refuge will provide an area for the “... conservation, management, and restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans” 16 U.S.C., 668(a) (2) (National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act) as well as “...for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources...” 16 U.S.C., 742(b)(1) (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956). The passage of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973 (as amended) required the Refuge to support recovery actions for federally listed endangered and threatened species.

The provisions listed below supplement the general regulations that govern the public use on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (<http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/>). The public is encouraged to use Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge for wildlife observation, photography, hunting, fishing, interpretation, and education. When permitted, hunting, fishing, and other public uses will be in accordance with applicable state laws unless otherwise listed.

General Regulations

Public Entry

The refuge is opened every day from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset, except for authorized nighttime hunting of raccoons and opossums. No other overnight uses are allowed unless authorized by Special Use Permit. Visitors should be aware of hunting seasons.

The use of artificial light, including headlights, to spot or locate any animal, except authorized nighttime hunting of raccoons and opossums, is strictly prohibited.

Be aware that alligators are present in refuge waters. No feeding or harassing is permitted. Killing and harassing of snakes is prohibited.

Camping and Fires

Camping and fires are not permitted on the refuge. Only authorized overnight uses are allowed on the Refuge

Alcoholic Beverages

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Vehicles

Motor vehicles are only allowed on refuge roads shown on the map on the reverse side unless the road is closed by sign or gate. Vehicles must be parked adjacent to these roadways, and may not block gates. Ditch busting or mud riding is not allowed on the refuge (neither off-road nor on-road).

No ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) allowed. Bicycles are not allowed on refuge foot trails or other areas marked as no bicycles allowed.

Structures

No man-made materials may be attached to any refuge structure.

Horseback Riding

Horses are allowed on county-maintained roads only.

Boating/Canoeing/Kayaking

Boating is permitted on all refuge waters from March 1 through October 31, except for Noxubee River and the borrow pits along Highway 25, which are open year-round. Boats are not permitted within 100 yards of the spillways below the lakes.

All applicable state regulations apply unless otherwise stated.

Boats are allowed to travel only at idle speed and must not produce a wake.

Please prevent the transportation of nuisance species (i.e. hydrilla) by removing any visible mud, water, plants, fish or animals before transporting boats and boat trailers.

Boats/canoes/kayaks may not be left on the refuge overnight.

Swimming

Swimming is not allowed in Refuge waters.

Closed Areas

Certain areas (as shown on the reverse map) are closed to all public entry. Such areas are marked with “Closed All Entry Prohibited.” The area around Douglas Bluff Road is an environmental education outdoor classroom and is closed to all hunting or hunting access and has “No Hunting” signs.

Refuge/Cultural Resources

The removal of any natural, historic, or archaeological feature is prohibited. Collection or release of plants, insects, wildlife, etc. is prohibited unless granted a special use permit.

Firearms

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of state and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50 CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 50 CFR Part 32). Firearms are prohibited in all federal facilities.

Discharging a firearm for a purpose other than to take legal game animals during established hunting seasons is prohibited.

Baiting

Baiting on the refuge is prohibited by Federal Law.

Special Hunting Regulations

Public hunting is permitted on about 42,000 acres. The harvest of animals is one tool used to manage wildlife populations at a level compatible with the habitat, provide wholesome recreational opportunities and permit the use of a valuable renewable resource. No person may capture, kill, or destroy any game bird, game mammal, or game fish and remove the head, claws, teeth, hide, antlers, or any or all of such parts from the body with the intent to abandon the body.

GTR 1 will be closed to all types of hunting, except waterfowl hunting, each Saturday and Wednesday morning of the state waterfowl season. At times other than these mornings, it will be open to all other types of hunting permitted on the refuge. Waterfowl hunts can be closed at management discretion if flooding causes a safety concern.

GTR’s 1, 2 and 4 are non toxic shot zones. Shotgun hunters in these zones must use and possess only approved non-toxic shot for small game hunts.

During all deer gun hunts, all hunters (including small game hunters, excepting waterfowl hunters) must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange-colored material above the waistline at all times, even while in a tree stand. Hunters should be aware other public uses will coincide with hunting seasons and visitors may not be wearing hunter orange. It is the hunters’ responsibility to be aware of what is in the line of fire.

Beaver, nutria, feral hogs, and coyote may be taken during any refuge hunt with weapons legal for that hunt.

Youth Hunts

Youth under 16 years of age, are eligible to participate in all youth hunts; however they must be accompanied by an adult age 21 or older. Both adult and youth must be together (in sight and normal voice range) at all times. Only the youth may handle, carry, transport, or discharge firearms. A no cost permit (this brochure) is required for all hunters. The following youth hunts will be held:

Squirrel – October 6-12 (State bag limits apply)

Deer - November 9-12 (State bag limits apply)
Any deer harvested must be checked in.

Turkey – March 8 -14 (State bag limits apply)
Any gobbler harvested must be checked in.

Small Game

Small game hunting is allowed on the refuge. A no cost permit (this brochure) is required for all hunters. Weapons for small game are restricted to shotguns with shot size no larger than No. 2 or rifles no larger than .22 standard caliber (.22 magnums not allowed). State bag limits apply.

Squirrel – October 13 – February 28
(Dogs allowed December 15 – 24 & January 2 -February 28)

Rabbit – October 13 – February 28
(Dogs allowed beginning January 2)

Quail – November 22 – March 2
(Dogs allowed)

Woodcock – State season

Raccoon and Opossum – October 1 – February 28
(Dogs required at night)

Deer

A \$15.00 permit is required for all deer hunting on the Refuge. These permits will be issued beginning September 1, 2012. Permits may be purchased by mail or in person at the refuge office.

Deer Hunt Permit Applications are located on the website <http://www.fws.gov/noxubee/noxhunt.html>.

Please fill out 1-3, and 8 on the application. Mail in your application and permit fee of \$15.00 (check or money order) made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Cash will be accepted at the Refuge's Visitor Center Monday through Friday 8 am until 4:30 pm and on the following Saturdays only:
October 6, 2012
November 10, 2012
November 17, 2012

All applications must be accompanied by the \$15 permit fee. Personal check or money order, made out to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is acceptable method of payment when applying by mail. Cash will be accepted when applying in person at the refuge office.

Incomplete or illegible applications will be rejected. Only one application per hunter. Youth hunting outside of the designated youth weekend are required to purchase the \$15.00 permit.

Permits are non-transferrable and all signature blocks must be signed and in possession at all times while hunting. Any harvested deer must be tagged before they are moved. All deer must be checked at the refuge check station the day harvested and before leaving the refuge. The refuge deer limit is the same as the State limit and deer harvested on the refuge count toward the State limit. Harvest restrictions are the same as State Hill Zone.

Special deer hunting blinds for persons who are limited to the use of a wheelchair will be available by special use permit. Contact the refuge office for information.

Hanging and/or cleaning deer is prohibited within the refuge's picnic, boat ramp, parking lots, and other public use areas. Deer can be field dressed where harvested.

Man-driving is prohibited.

Portable stands may only be placed on the refuge from September 1 – January 15. It is unlawful to drive a nail, spike, or other metal object into a tree or to hunt from any tree in which such an object has been driven. Cutting or trimming branches or brush for shooting lanes is prohibited.

All stands must be removed from the Refuge by January 15th.

Archery (Weapons as defined by the State for federal lands.)

October 1 – November 16. The use or possession of any drugged arrow or associated equipment is prohibited. Hunter orange is required during all big game gun hunts including primitive weapon and youth gun hunts.

Gun (Weapons as defined by the State for federal lands.)

November 17 – November 30 and December 26 - January 1

Primitive Weapon (Weapons as defined by the State for federal lands.)

November 5 - November 16 (antlerless only)

December 1 - December 14 (either sex)

Waterfowl

Waterfowl hunt permits will allow the permit holder and two companions to hunt in the designated area. Only one application is allowed per applicant. Applications will be accepted beginning September 1st until the morning of the drawing.

The drawing will be held on the first Monday in November. Hunters drawn will be notified by mail of their hunt dates. When you receive your hunt dates, mail in your permit fee of \$15.00 (check or money order) made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Applications are located on the website <http://www.fws.gov/noxubee/noxhunt.html>. Please fill out 1-3, 5 (Preference dates not guaranteed), and 8 on the application. Shot size restriction for small game does not apply to waterfowl.

Incomplete or illegible applications will be rejected. Multiple applications per hunter will cause all application for that hunter to be rejected.

Available dates are each Wednesday and Saturday of the State waterfowl seasons. Non-toxic shot is required for these hunts.

Turkey

A no-cost permit is required to hunt turkey on the Refuge (this brochure).

Legal Gobblers (as defined by State) – March 15 – May 1

All turkeys must be checked in at the refuge check station the day of harvest and before the hunter leaves the refuge.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting, Fishing and Public Use Regulations 2012-2013

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD

August 2012



2012-2013 Hunting, Fishing, and Public Use Regulations

Signature on this brochure is required to validate it as a no cost permit to participate in all small game, turkey, youth gun deer hunts, and fishing. By signing, permittees agree that they have read and understand all regulations contained within. Hunters and fishermen are required to keep their signed no cost permit in possession at all times while hunting and fishing.

Signature